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THE
FOREIGN TRAVELS
AND

Dangerous VOYAGES

Of that renowned English Knight

Sir John Mandeville.

Wherein

He gives an Account of Remote Kingdoms,
Countries, Rivers, Castles, and Giants of a
prodigious Height and Strength. Together
with the People called Pigmies, very small
and of a low Stature.

To which is added,

An Account of People of odd Deformities, some with-
out Heads. — Also dark enchanted Wilderesses,
where are fiery Dragons, Griffins, and many won-
derful Beasts of Prey, in the Country of Prester-
John. — All very delightful to the Reader.



Printed and Sold in Bow-Church-Yard,



The HISTORY of

Sir John Mandeville.



CHAP. I.

Of Sir JOHN MANDEVILLE's Travels to the Holy-Land.

I SIR JOHN MANDEVILLE, Knt. born in the Old Town of St. Albans, set forward to travel on Michaelmas-day, 1732, to the Holy-Land, and the countries I passed thro' I shall give an account of, as followeth:

First, In my way to Jerusalem I passed through Almain, Hungary, and by the castle of Nurburg, and so on to the Trone, by the Danube. Thence I passed on to Belgrave, and entered into the land of Bruges; and there past a bridge of stone, over the river of Morack, and so through Penseras, to Greece, to the city of Stermesse, and so to Constantinople; where, before St. Stephen's church,

the image of Justinian the emperor, sitting on horseback, crowned, and formerly held an apple in his hand.

From thence I passed through Turkey, to the city of Nika, and passed through the gate of Chevotot, which is a mile and a half from Nika, from thence I took my passage to several islands, where I beheld wonderful and strange customs, as men hunting with pampoons like leopards, catching wild beasts quicker than hounds.

From thence I passed on the Hierusalem, where first I went on pilgrimage unto the church where the holy grave is, which was without the walls, on the North-side, but is now inclosed within the wall of the town.

The church is a fair structure, covered with lead, with a fair and strong tower on the West-side, for bells. In the middle is a tabernacle, richly gilt with gold and azure, &c. and on the right-side is the sepulchre of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and within, on the right-side of mount Calvary, where he was crucified, the cross was fixed in a mortis on the rock. — In this mortis, it is said, Adam's head was found after the flood. — And here also is an altar, before which lie interr'd Godfrey de Bulogn, Baldwin, and other Christians, Kings of Jerusalem.



C H A P. II.

Of the fair Lady, Keeper of the ENCHANTED
HAWKE.

STILL to satisfy that curiosity which my fancy led me to, I travelled on till I came to a country wherein stands the castle of Cyprus. There I beheld a curious Hawke sitting on a porch, and a beautiful lady of Fairyland keeping it: And 'tis reported he that will watch seven days and seven nights, without company or sleep, this charming lady will come to him at the end of the aforesaid time, and grant him the richest of worldly things he shall crave; and hath often been proved.

First, A worthy man, the noble king of Armony, watched on a certain time, and at the end of seven days, the lady accordingly came to him, and bid him ask what he liked, and it should be granted, for had done his duty. He answered, I am a king of much power, flourishing in great peace and plenty, and value nothing equal unto your love. Her answer was, He asked foolishly, for she was not of this world, so he could not have his desire. Moreover, she said, She'd grant three things to all that came after. So ever since the kings of Armony have been vexed with continual war.

After this came a poor man's son, and desired of the lady he might grow rich in merchandize. She granted his request, and he grew so rich, as he knew not the thousandth part of his treasure. But she bid him be careful, lest the pride thereof should prove his destruction.

Then came a knight templer, who having performed the task, requested of the lady to have a purse of gold, which should be induced with that quality, that still as he took out of the same, it might be afresh replenished. She granted his wish, but told him, He had asked that which would prove his undoing.

This place boundeth near the land of Chaldee, where the men are proper, and of fine complections, their cloaths richly beset with rubies and gold. — But for the women, they are short, and very hard-favoured, and go for the most part bare-footed, their garments poor, and so short, that it comes but to the middle of their thighs, yet their sleeves so extravagant long, that they hang to their toes; their hair long and black. But I'd best leave off describing it, lest I meet with some affronts for my labour.

CH A P. III.

Of a strange Sort of People, who have but one Foot, but are famous for Running.

FROM thence I came to the land of Ethiope, where I beheld many strange things. In this land the people are exceeding black. Besides here is a well, whose water is so cold in the day, as no man dare drink it, and so hot in the night, as you cannot bear your finger in the same.

There is still one thing remarkable in this place, for there are a sort of men as have but one foot, yet so swift as to exceed the deer in running. — This foot is so large in compass, as when they are minded to rest, lying on their backs, it shelters the body from the heat of the sun, or showers of rain.

When their children come first into the world, they are of a russet complexion, but as they grow up they turn perfect black.—One of the wise men who sought for our Lord in Bethlehem was king of this country.

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C H A P. IV.

Of India, where are Eels thirty feet long, and other remarkable Wonders.

IN India there are many kingdoms and countries. Through the body of all runs a mighty river called India, from whence country derives its name, in which are Eels thirty feet in length, and the men who commonly fish there are of different colours, viz. Green, Yellow, Blue, &c. I passed through many islands in India; and came to the Isle of Hermes, where merchants of Genoa and Venice have their commerce for rich merchandize. And it is so warm in this island that mens' members down unto their shins. But men of the better breeding conceal them by tying them up. In the heat of the day the men and women lay themselves under water. And the women are not ashamed to appear naked before the men.

From thence I came to the island of Lana, and here they worship images according to their own imaginations. In this island are strange and wonderful rats, who far exceed the tallest hounds; and they hunt these rats with mastiff-dogs, who can scarce conquer them.

From thence I passed to Lombe, where I went through a forest called Tombar, which, in length, was fifty days journey, where there grew abundance

of pepper and other spices. At the end of which forest stands a city named Polomes, at the foot of which city is a well whose waters are variable every hour of the day, tasting of changeable spices and rich odours, and who drinks of this water three times is cured of all diseases: They call it, *The Well of youth*. I drank there myself, and believe I am better for it ever since.

In this country they worship an ox for his simplicity; whose dung and urine they preserve in fine vessels of gold, and present it to the king, who puts his hand into it, and anoints his breast, and forehead, saying, I am anointed with the virtue of the ox. And after him the chief of the nobility do the like, so long as any is left. The idols they constantly worship are half men and half ox, before whom they often slay their children, by way of sacrifice. And when any man dies, they burn him in token of penance; and if he leaves no children, they burn his wife with him, saying, She ought to bear him company in the next world, as she did in this.



CHAP.



C H A P. V.

Of the Country of Lemory, where people go naked,
and of their strange manners.

FROM thence, after fifty days journey, I came to the isle of Lemory, where the men and women go naked, and glory in the same, for they make a scoff at those who appear in any apparel, for their argument is, that God made Adam and Eve both naked, and why should they be ashamed of what God made? No Persons marry, but they're all common, and they say, That God ordained Adam and Eve to encrease, multiply, and replenish the earth. No man can say there, This is my wife, nor a woman say, This is my husband.

Likewise the riches of this country is as common to each other as themselves, and tho' they've store of corn and other dainties, yet their chief food is man's flesh. — Children from other countries are brought thither as merchandize to be sold. And those that are fat and plump are killed like pigs, for stately banqueting. Those that are lean, they fatten and kill also.

And near to this isle is another, the people being of excellent carriage, and good manners, whose nobility are marked in the face with burning irons, as they may be distinguished from others, as being, in their own esteem, the most worthy of any. — They have a perpetual war with the aforesaid naked men continually.

CHAP.

C H A P. VI.

Of the golden palace of the King of Java.

THEN I travelled to the island of Java, a place abounding with all manner of spices. The king thereof has seven kings under him, and so wealthy he is, that the stairs and floors of his palace are covered with massy gold and silver; and the walls with the same. On which there are written ancient stories of renowned knights, and valiant men at arms.

C H A P. VII.

Of the Kingdom and Wonders of Telonoch.

THEN I travelled by sea to the land of Telonoch; the king thereof has as many wives as he pleases, and never lies but once with each woman.

In this land is a miraculous wonder, for the various sorts of fishes that breed in the sea, come once a-year to land, and lie there three days, in which time the inhabitants take what they please, and the rest return. Then comes another sort, and does the like, till all have taken their turns; and no one knoweth the reason, except it be, as they say, they come to worship their king. Who is a mighty prince, and has at his command 14,000 elephants, upon whose backs, when he goeth forth to fight, he placeth mighty castles, whereby he conquers his enemies.

CHAP.

C H A P. VIII.

Of a bloody kind of People who delight in drinking Human Gore.

NOT far from thence is an island called Tarkonet, a place inhabited by a wicked kind of people, whose delight is in Slaughter of mankind, whose blood they drink with as much pleasure as if it was the richest wine in the world. Moreover, he is accounted most famous who commits most murders. And if two happen to be at variance, before they can be friends they must drink of each other's, else it's of no effect.

C H A P. IX.

Of People that have Heads like Hounds.

THEN I travelled to the isle of Macumerac; where the men and women have heads like hounds, and for their god they worship the ox. They are hardy men to fight, and with a large target they cover their bodies, having a spear in their hand, they fight, and what prisoners they take, they send to their king. He wears around his neck 300 pearls, with which he says 300 prayers every morning, ere he breaks his fast. And he likewise beareth about his neck a ruby of two feet in length. He's a virtuous and peaceable man, for he molesteth not any in passing thro' his country. Bordering upon this country there are many miraculous wild beasts, as also serpents with yellow and green streaks, running upon four legs, of a vast height.

C H A P. X.

Of the Isle of Dodyn, where Children eat their Parents, and Parents the Children.

AFTER three days journey I came to the isle of Dodyn, where the father eats the child, and the child the father, the wife the husband, and the husband the wife. And if a parent lies sick, the son goes and enquires of the oracle whether they are for life or death. If for death, he returns with the priest and immediately stops the breath of either father or mother; which done, the body is straight cut into pieces, and the relations invited to come and banquet upon the same. Having eat the flesh, the bones they bury, attended with instruments of joyful musick.

The king of this place has many isles under his government. In one of these isles are men that eat fish and flesh raw, having but one eye, and that in the midst of their foreheads.

In a second isle are men whose eyes are in their shoulders, and their mouths in their breasts, having no heads.

In a third isle are men with plain faces, without noses or eyes, but have two holes instead of eyes, and flat mouths.

In the fourth isle are men with plain faces, without nose, mouth, or eyes, but they're on their back and shoulders.

In the fifth isle are men with lips so large that they cover their faces while asleep.

In the sixth isle are men very small, being but two feet high.

In the seventh isle are men with ears hanging below their shoulders.

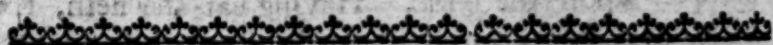
In the eighth isle are men that have feet like horses, and run as swift.

In the ninth isle are men that run upon all fours; their skins are as rough as bears.

In the tenth isle are men that go on their knees, with eight toes on each foot.

In the eleventh isle are men with fingers and toes a yard long.

And in the twelfth isle are people that are both men and women, having the members of both to copulate with. And when they use the male-members they get children, and when the female, they bear.

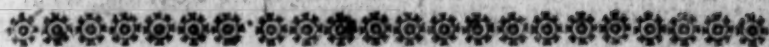


CHAP. XI.

Of the Kingdom of Mancia, where the married Women wear Crowns on their Heads.

AFTER many days journey I came to Mancia, a fair and pleasant country, in which are many stately cities and towns, among which the city of Cassay is the most beautiful in the whole world; there being no less than ten thousand bridges, and on every bridge a stately tower. Here married women wear crowns on their Heads to be distinguished. The fowl are six times as large as in England.—Hens, instead of feathers, wear wool, like sheep.—Men have beards like cats, yet are rational, and of sound and good understanding.

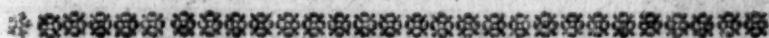
CHAP.



C H A P. XII.

Of a People called PIGMIES, who marry when
Half a Year old.

FROM thence I passed along the river that leads to the land of the Pigmies, where the men and women are but three spans long, and marry when but half a year old: For as they're but small of stature, so their days are but short; for he is looked on to be old, who lives eight years. They are very ingenious at working silk and cotton, which is their employ. — Large men that live among them till their land, because they are not strong enough to perform such hard labour.



C H A P. III.

Of the Province of Cathay; the Largeness of its
Cities and Provinces.

THEN I travelled to the Province of Cathay; where are two cities, the Old and the New. The New has twelve gates; each a mile asunder.

In these cities the palace of the Great Caan is, near a great hill, on which stands another palace; the most beautiful in the whole world: In the hall of this palace are thirteen pillars of fine gold, the walls covered with red skins of beasts, which with the reflection of the sun appears most glorious, sending a smell that keeps off all manner of Infection. — In the center of the palace is a lofty seat for the Great Caan, adorned with rubies, pearls, and dia-

monds; and underneath are fountains flowing with liquor for their court supply.

At the left hand of the throne are three seats beautified with fine gold and jasper, where his three wives sit, in a degree below one another.—On his right-hand sits his next heir, accompanied by many noblemen.

In this hall is an artificial vine, which is extended by spreading branches through every part of the hall; on whose branches there appear clusters of grapes, hanging over all the heads of the royal assembly.—Before the table of the emperor sit his nobility, together with musicians to divert him in the time of banqueting.

C H A P. XIV.

Of the Great Caan, and his Grandeur.

BUT I was informed why the emperor of Cathay was called the Great Caan; which was as follows:

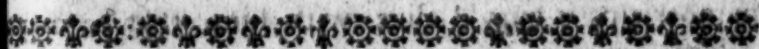
When the world was destroyed by the flood, all but Noah and his family, his sons saw his nakedness; Shem mocked at it, but Japhet covered it. Wherefore when they had each of them possessed the parts of the world appointed for them, Shem, though the wealthiest of them all, yet his people brought forth those deformed creatures of which we treated in the foregoing chapters.

Under his government are seven lineages, and it is not long since a poor man, named Chanius, sleeping on his bed, was visited by an apparition in likeness of a nobleman, saying unto him, Arise, for God hath sent me to thee, to say unto thee, Go unto the

seven lineages, and tell them, that thou shalt be their mighty emperor to deliver them from their enemies. The old man went and having delivered his message, they did not only laugh at him, but called him an hundred fools.

Soon after this apparition appeared to the seven lineages, and having given them a satisfactory account that it was the will of God it should be so for their deliverance, they took the old man, and made him emperor, and called him the Great Caan, which continues to this day.

To try the loyalty of the nobility, he summoned them together, and ordered them to smite off the heads of their eldest sons with their own hands. — This they accordingly did. So when he found their loyalty and obedience, he sent them forth, and conquered all the countries around him, together with the land of Cathay, and then died, leaving his eldest son Chioco emperor, whose grandeur made him the greatest emperor in the world.

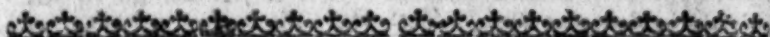


C H A P. XV.

Of a mighty Emperor, whose palace is of fine Gold, beset with Rubies.

TH E emperor is great, and may expend forty millions yearly, but his money is made of leather, for he builds his palace with silver. — In his defence-chamber there is erected a pillar of gold, in which is a ruby and carbuncle a foot long, which gives continual light in the dark. In the summer he resideth in the north, and in the winter towards the south, for he has many palaces.

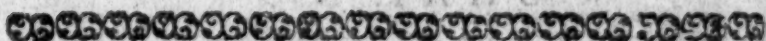
This Caan is a mighty Lord, far surpassing of Prester John, or the emperor of Persia. — His subjects have as many wives as they please: Some have forty, fifty, an hundred, or more; and they marry their relations, except mothers, sisters, and daughters. — Men and women go all in one sort, of arrayment.



C H A P. XVI.

Of the Manner of the Emperor's Funeral.

WHEN the emperor dies he is put in a cart, and placed in the midst of a tent, and they set before him a table furnished with meat and mare's milk, and close by it a horse saddled and bridled, loaded with silver and gold. And having dug a deep pit, they lay him in it, with all the stuff about him, and also the horse, mare, and colt, that they may not want horses in another world. And one of his chamberlains is bury'd alive with him, that he may do him service in a future state.



C H A P. XVII.

Of the Land of Gorgy, and how a great Part of it is covered with Darkness.

THEN I travelled many kingdoms, till I arrived at the land of Gorgy, where dwell many Christians, and here is one thing remarkable: A great part of the country is hid with perpetual darkness, so that no one dare to travel there. Never-

theless they have often heard the crowing of cocks, the cries of men, the trampling of horses, and clashing of arms, but none know what sort of people they are ; but it is said, a bloody-minded emperor who pursued the Christians to put them to death was opposed by the hand of Heaven, and the land covered with darkness, so that he could pursue them no farther ; but remains with his host in continual dismal darkness.



C H A P. XVIII.

Of the Land of Baetrine, where are Creatures Half a Man and half a Horse.

THEN I travelled to the land of Baetrine, where are many marvels : Trees bearing wool, with which they make cloth. Likewise creatures that are half men and half horses, living sometimes in the water, and sometimes on the land, and they devour men when they meet with them. There I have seen griffins, the fore part like an eagle, and the hinder part like a lion. — There is likewise another kind of griffins, much larger and stronger than the former.



CHAP.

C H A P. XIX.

Of the Land of PRESTER JOHN, whose People are horned ; and Trees bear Iron Apples.

THENCE I went to the country of Prester John, who is a mighty lord, and wedded the only daughter of the Great Caan. Such plenty of rich stones and diamonds there is in that country, that they make them into cups and dishes. — In this land is a gravelly sea, which ebbs and flows like the ocean, yet not one drop of water is to be seen therein, nevertheless men catch fishes there. Likewise, from Paradise there comes, three days in the week, abundance of sand, the force of which is so strong, that it bears before it huge and mighty stones. Many rubies are also found in that flood. Beyond this river are trees that grow from sun-rising to mid-day, bearing apples harder than iron, which fall unto the earth at noon successfully each day. — There are likewise wild men, who are very hairy, with horns upon their heads ; they speak not, but roar like swine.



C H A P. XX.

Of the Land of Pitau. Of the Inchanted Valley.
Of Prester John's going to Battle. His stately
Attendance, Grandeur, &c.

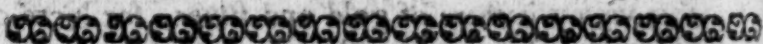
AFTERWARDS I went to the land of Pitau, where the men are but small, but not so small as Pigmies. They live on the smell of apples. So there is likewise another island; in which the men are overgrown with feathers, like the fowls of the air.—From thence I travelled to the river of Pilson, where is an enchanted valley betwren two hills, that is four miles in length. Here are many tempests and storms, sad shrieks and cries, so they call it the valley of devils. Here is day and night the sound of instruments of music, as if feasting in much triumph. In this valley is store of gold and silver, for lucre of which many have gone thither who never came back again.

Beyond this valley is an island of giants, thirty or forty feet high: Also sheep bigger than oxen.

Then I came to an island of fair and pleasant people, where the custom was to hire men to get the maidenhead of the bride when she was married. I asked what was the reason of so doing, and was answered that some of those woman had serpents formerly withsn their bodies, which stung their husbands by the yard, so that they died.

The Emperor Prester John when he goes to battle, instead of banners, he hath three golden crosses borne before him, set with precious diamonds and rubies, each cross guarded by a thousand fighting men. There is likewise a vessel borne before him,

full of gold and rich jewels, in token of his present grandeur, and another filled with earth, to shew that all princely pomp shall come to nought. — He dwelleth for the most part in the city of Suse, where his royal throne and princely palace is made of fine gold, adorned with carbuncles, and rich rubies, bordered with ivory. The windows are of crystal, the tables jasper, and cornelian fram'd with gold richly wrought. — In his chamber he has sweet perfumes, flaming in vessels of gold. His bed so stately and rich, that I never beheld the like in all my travels, and in his court he has more than a thousand men besides comers and goers. Likewise he hath seven kings, and seventy-two dukes, which daily wait on him, to which are added, three hundred earls, and thirty-two bishops, so that he is most richly served, and very gloriously attended.



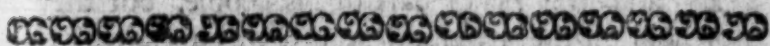
C H A P. XXI.

Of a Wilderness where grow Speaking-Trees.

BEYOND this place is a large wilderness, in which, as I was told, grow speaking trees, called the trees of the sun and moon. And whoever eats of the fruit thereof, they say, lives four or five hundred years. Others affirm, they never die: — These trees told Alexander of his death. We would willingly have gone to have seen them, but were prevented by lions, dragons, serpents, &c.

The reason of this emperor's being called Prestor John was as follows: He happened, in his progress, to go into a Christian church in Egypt, on the Saturday after Whitsunday, when the bishop gave orders

and he asked who were they that stood before the bishop. The answer was, They are priests. Then, said he, I will be no longer called emperor, but according to the name of the first that comes forth, whose name was John. Therefore the emperors of that country ever since have been called Prester John.



C H A P. XXII.

Of an Island where are Pismires as large as Hounds.

FARTHER towards the East from this place, is an island wherein is a mountain of gold dust kept by pismires, whose industrious labour is to part the fine from the coarse. These pismires are larger than English hounds, so that it is difficult for any man to gain the treasure, for fear of those pismires, who would sting them to death.

Near this place, towards Parradise Terrestre, is a dark wilderness, full of mountains and craggy rocks, no manner of light appearing to distinguish the day from the night, beyond which dark wilderness is the paradise where Adam and Eve were some short time, and the ground is the highest in the world. The great flood was not so high as this mountain. In the midst of which is a well, that sends forth four streams, the first is called Pisan, and runneth through India; the second is called Nilus, and runneth through Ethiopia; the third is named Tygris, and runneth through Assyria; the fourth is named Euphrates, and runneth into Amemp. No man can come to that paradise by land for huge rocks and mountains; nor by sea, by reason of the restless waves and dangerous waters. Some that attempted it, have been struck dead, others blind.

CHAP. XXII.

Of the Faith of Prester John.

THIS noble emperor Prester John, is baptized, and the major part of his people, but they do not hold all the articles of the Christian faith. Nevertheless, they believe in the three Persons of the Trinity, and are extraordinary devout in what they do profess. And they've great plenty of cattle. Seventy-two provinces and countries are under his care, and every country hath a king, with petty kings under each. In this country are many miraculous wonders, one of which is a gravelly sea, ebbing and flowing of gravel and sand, moving like waves, but not one drop of water to be seen; it is never at rest, and what is more remarkable, no man can pass beyond it. There are excellent fish often taken in this said sand, as if it were the watry ocean. The fish are different from all that have been taken in OTHER rivers, yet they're choice and pleasant to the palate.

Some few miles from this place runs a river, descending from Paradise, full of rich stones and precious diamonds. Nevertheless, there is no water in this river. Its vast waves roll down into the afore-said sea of gravel, with that force and violence, that it carries down stones of rocks, and makes such a roaring noise, as to be heard for some miles round.

C H A P. XXIII.

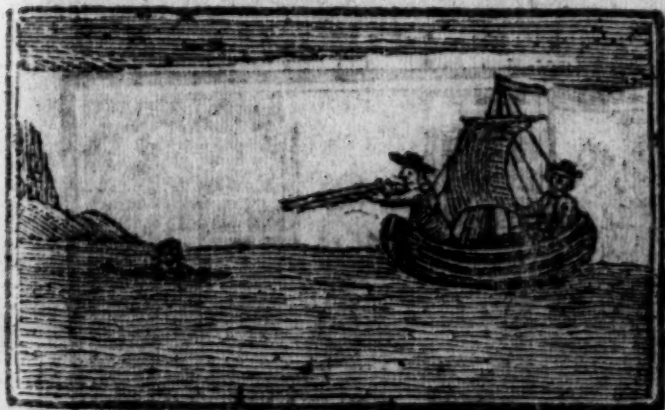
Of the Island of Taprobane.

THIS island lies towards the East-side of Prester John's country, being very pleasant and spacious; abounding with unspeakable plenty, with all manner of rich fruits and spices. The king of this country pays obedience to Prester John. This king is always made by election.

To our wonderful admiratson there are two summers and two winters; every year they have two harvests, and as for their herbs and flowers they always flourish.

The people are of a kind and loving disposition, being, for the most part of them, Christian Professors.

Between Prester John's country and this island is a small river that men wade over from country to country in, without the danger of being drowned.



C H A P. XXIV.

Of Prester John's Island being under England, and
of Sir Mandeville's happy Return.

TH E S E islands and kingdoms of Prester John
are directly under the earth, from England.
We are foot to foot, as I can assure the reader from
the experience of my long travels, of which I at
length grew weary. And being desirous once more
to see the land of my nativity, I set sail for England,
where I safely arrived to the comfortable satisfaction
of my friends, and by the help of my journals com-
piled this book, which gives an account of what I
have seen in my travels, some of which, for their
strangeness may seem incredible, but those that will
not believe the truth of these things, let them but
read the booke of Mappa Mundi, and they shall find
a great part of it there confirmed.

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